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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/584,498	05/31/2007	Hiroaki Kashima	027596-00020	4597
4372	7590	09/06/2011	EXAMINER	
ARENT FOX LLP			JONES, MARCUS D	
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.				
SUITE 400			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			3717	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/06/2011	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DCIPDocket@arentfox.com
IPMatters@arentfox.com
Patent_Mail@arentfox.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/584,498	KASHIMA, HIROAKI	
Examiner	Art Unit		
MARCUS JONES	3717		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5) Claim(s) 19-36 is/are pending in the application.
5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

7) Claim(s) 19-36 is/are rejected.

8) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

9) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/22/2006.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 19-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneider et al. (US PGPub 2003/0027638).**

In reference to claims 19, 22, and 25, Schneider discloses: A gaming system comprising:

a plurality of gaming machines (see Figure 1, *EGM 12, 14*) each of which include special game initiation device for initiating a special game in which the player is given an advantage in comparison with a basic game (see Figure 1, *bank controller 24 controls eligible game machines within the bank of machines* and par 35), and game value providing device for providing a player with a game value (par 34, *Embodiments of the invention allow complete control of how much total payout money is in a particular bonus pool, and how the total payout is divided into separate awards, if so divided.*); and

a management server which is connected to said plurality of gaming machines via communication device, and which has a function of centrally managing the amount of the game value paid out from each of said gaming machines (see Figure 1, *bonus*

server 44 is connected to game machines, via network, through each bank controller 24 which are connected to the bank of gaming machines),

wherein each of said plurality of gaming machines includes special game information transmitting device for transmitting special game information to said management server, which notifies said management server that a special game has been initiated by said special game initiation device (par 16, *each bank controller 24 includes a processor that facilitates data communication between the EGMs in its associated bank and the other components on the network, including the bonus servers 44, 46, player tracking 42 and accounting server 38*), and

special game participation information transmitting device for transmitting special game participation information to said management server, which notifies said management server of the participation in said special game (par 26, *a casino will want to have many EGMs participating in a particular bonus pool so that many players are eligible for the bonus.*),

and wherein said management server includes special game information receiving device for receiving said special game information transmitted by said special game information transmitting device, special game initiation information transmitting device for transmitting special game initiation information to the gaming machines other than the gaming machine where said special game has been initiated, which notifies the gaming machines of the initiation of the special game,

special game participation information receiving device for receiving said special game participation information from said plurality of gaming machines (par 21, *Bonus servers 44, 46 each are embodied by a microcomputer and are used to control bonus applications or bonus systems on the gaming network 10. Each bonus system includes a set of rules for awarding jackpots in excess of those established by the winning pay tables of each EGM. Some bonus awards may be made randomly, while others may be made to link to groups of EGMs operating in a progressive jackpot mode.*), and

game value providing command transmitting device for transmitting a command to said gaming machines, which instructs said game value providing device to provide the players with game values corresponding to the results of said special game (par 47, *the bonus system could present to the winning player a list of all available bonus prizes remaining in the bonus pool and then randomly select one of the prizes as the player's winning prize.*).

In reference to claims 20, 23, and 26, Schneider discloses: wherein said game value providing command transmitting device of said management server transmits a command, which instructs said game value providing device to provide a game value, to each of said plurality of gaming machines, such that there is difference in said game value, provided by said game value providing device, between the gaming machine that has transmitted the special game information via said special game information transmitting device and the other gaming machines that have not transmitted said special game information (par 40).

In reference to claims 21, 24, and 27, Schneider discloses: wherein said game value providing command transmitting device of said management server transmits a command, which instructs said game value providing device to provide a game value, to each of said plurality of gaming machines, such that said game value providing device provides game values corresponding to the results of said special game (par 49 and Figure 4, lead line 360).

3. Claims 28-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker et al. (US 6,312,332).

In reference to claims 28 and 31, Walker discloses: A gaming system comprising: a first gaming machine which provides a basic game and a special game in which a player is given an advantage in comparison with the basic game (see Figure 1, lead line 12 and col 3, ln 41-53, *where team play is a special game*, Walker further discloses a team bonus game conditions (col 4, ln 20-32). Both team play and bonus game are different from the base game (stand alone play) in col 7, ln 19-25); a management server having a function of transmission/reception of information to and from said first gaming machine (see Figure 1, lead 18); and a second gaming machine having a function of transmission/reception of information to and from said management server (see Figure 1, lead 14), wherein, in cases in which said special game is triggered (col 3, ln 50-53) in said basic game in said first gaming machine, said first gaming machine transmits special game information to said management server, which notifies said management server of the initiation of said special game (col 3, ln 42-49),

and wherein, upon reception of said special game information, said management server creates special game participation selection information based upon said special game information, and transmit said special game participation selection information to said second gaming machine,

and wherein said second gaming machine provides the player at said second gaming machine with said special game participation selection information,

and wherein, upon the player at said second gaming machine inputting participation selection input data, said second gaming machine creates special game participation information based upon said participation selection input data, and transmits said special game participation information to said management server (col 6, In 1-20, *where the Start button or Join Team Play button signify entering into the special game*),

and wherein said management server transmits a start command for said special game to said first gaming machine and said second gaming machine according to said special game participation information,

and wherein said management server transmits progress information to said first and second gaming machines during the progress of said special game while receiving input data from the players at said first gaming machine and/or the player at said second gaming machine, in order to advance said special game (col 6, In 39-44),

and wherein said management server creates command information based upon the results of said special game and transmits said command information to said first and second gaming machines, which instructs said first gaming machine and/or said

second gaming machine to provide each player with a corresponding game value (col 6, ln 45-53).

In reference to claims 29 and 32, Walker discloses: further comprising a third gaming machine having a function of transmission/reception of information to and from said management server (see Figure 1, lead 16),

wherein, in cases in which said management server has not received said special game participation information from said third gaming machine in a predetermined period of time after said management server has transmitted said special game participation selection information to said third gaming machine, said management server does not transmit information for said special game to said third gaming machine (col 10, ln 4-10).

In reference to claims 30 and 33, Walker discloses: wherein said management server transmits said command information to said first gaming machine and/or said second gaming machine, so as to provide the players at said first gaming machine and said second gaming machine with different game values (col 8, ln 55-56).

In reference to claims 34, 35 and 36, Walker discloses: A first gaming machine which comprises a display for displaying information regarding a game, a receiver that allows a player to input data for starting a game, and a control device for controlling the progress of the game, and which provides a basic game and a special game in which the player is given an advantage in comparison with the basic game,

wherein said first gaming machine has a function of transmission/reception of information to and from a second gaming machine (see Figure 1, lead line 12),

wherein, in cases in which the game stage being executed by said first gaming machine has switched from said basic game stage to said special-game stage, said first gaming machine creates special game participation selection information based upon special game information which is a notification that said special game is to be initiated, and transmits said special game participation selection information to said second gaming machine,

and wherein said second gaming machine provides said special game participation selection information to the player at said second gaming machine, creates special game participation information based upon participation selection input data input by the player at said second gaming machine, and transmits said special game participation information to said first gaming machine (col 6, ln 1-20),

and wherein said first gaming machine creates a start command for said special game based upon said special game participation information, which instructs said first gaming machine to start said special game, and which is transmitted to said second gaming machine,

and wherein said first gaming machine transmits progress information to said second gaming machine during the progress of said special game while receiving the input data input by the players at said first gaming machine and/or said second gaming machine directly or through said second gaming machine, in order to advance said special game (col 6, ln 39-44),

and wherein said first gaming machine creates command information based upon the results of said special game and transmits said command information to

second gaming machine, which instructs said first gaming machine and/or said second gaming machine to provide each player with a corresponding game value (col 3, ln 17-41).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARCUS JONES whose telephone number is (571)270-3773. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5 EST, Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Melba Bumgarner can be reached on 571-272-4709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marcus D. Jones/
Examiner, Art Unit 3717

/Melba Bumgarner/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3717

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